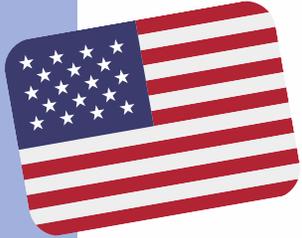


BIDEN HAS WON THE ELECTION...

BUT HOW DO YOU FIGHT FOR JUSTICE NOW?

TOPIC BRIEF



- Even beyond political parties, we in America were told that this was one of the most important elections of our lifetimes. But now that it's over, it's important to recognize that no one person has the power to end the systemic oppression seen throughout the globe
- So, looking forward, it is important for everyone who has the privilege of learning about politics and government to use that opportunity to impact change

Why it's Important to Be Engaged With Politics:

- Obviously, it's understandable if you want to avoid the hot button topics and intense fights, but a lot of people's lives and basic human rights depend on what our government officials—local, state, and national—are advocating for.
 - Funding for our communities and the ways in which our funding is allocated... **that's politics.**
 - Ensuring that the children who don't have access to consistent meals at home can be guaranteed a school lunch... **that's politics.**
 - Homelessness and the barriers created to finding shelter... **that's politics.**
 - The fight against sexual assault... **that's politics.**
 - The way the government addresses the murder of unarmed black people by law enforcement... **that's politics.**
 - Changing the criminal justice system which prioritizes punishment over rehabilitation and which statistically sentences one in every three Black boys to prison time... **that's politics.**
 - These issues don't need to be partisan, but they will change with legislation, elected officials, and most importantly: grassroots efforts by individuals. **That makes them political.**

So What Are Some Ways You Can Keep Pushing For What You're Passionate About?



- You can start by **picking a cause you care about**. It's important not to spread yourself too thin, so try to advocate for one broad issue at a time. However, in doing so, make sure to look at intersectionality. All issues, from the environment to feminism to wealth inequality to LGBTQ rights, impact multiple groups in different ways, and it is essential to include all groups in the conversation.
- If you're fighting for a community that is not your own, that's great. Just make sure you're not being a savior. If the discussion is not about you, **you should be centering it around those to whom it does pertain and use your privilege to uplift and empower their voices**. Do not try to speak over them. Do not try to speak for them.
- **Use the resources you have to contribute to grassroots movements** and organizations that are working on the ground to help marginalized communities.
 - If you have money, find mutual aid funds, bail funds, and legal defense funds to contribute to - these will help communities on the ground level and give them access to basic necessities (healthcare, rent, legal representation, etc.) that they might need. Here are some examples to get you started:
 - [Movement for Black Lives](#)
 - [Radical Indigenous Mutual Aid Fund + Indigenous Mutual Aid Network](#)
 - [Outright Action Aid for LGBTQ+ People During COVID-19](#)
 - [National Bail Fund Network](#)
 - [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#)
 - **Aid grassroots movements regarding issues you're passionate about**, by volunteering, joining, organizing, and donating money if you're able.
 - [Here is a list of some top grassroots movements](#) compiled by ethical.net, but sometimes it's better to find more local movements or chapters to help out with, since they will likely have fewer resources.

- Make sure to **do your research before donating**, specifically to see what action the movement takes and if it aligns with your beliefs.
- Sign petitions to push your government towards change regarding issues you care about (but make sure you do your research first).
- Contact your elected representatives and hold them accountable by asking them to take action - be that defunding the police, divesting from the fossil fuel industry, or advocating for any form of reform

Discussion Questions

1. Why might it be important to discuss the results of the election?
2. What could be the harm in doing so?
3. How helpful are elections in making change?
4. Where have politics made their way into your daily life, if you're comfortable sharing.
5. What are some ways you have tried to push your community towards justice and equity in the past? What are some techniques you might try moving forward?